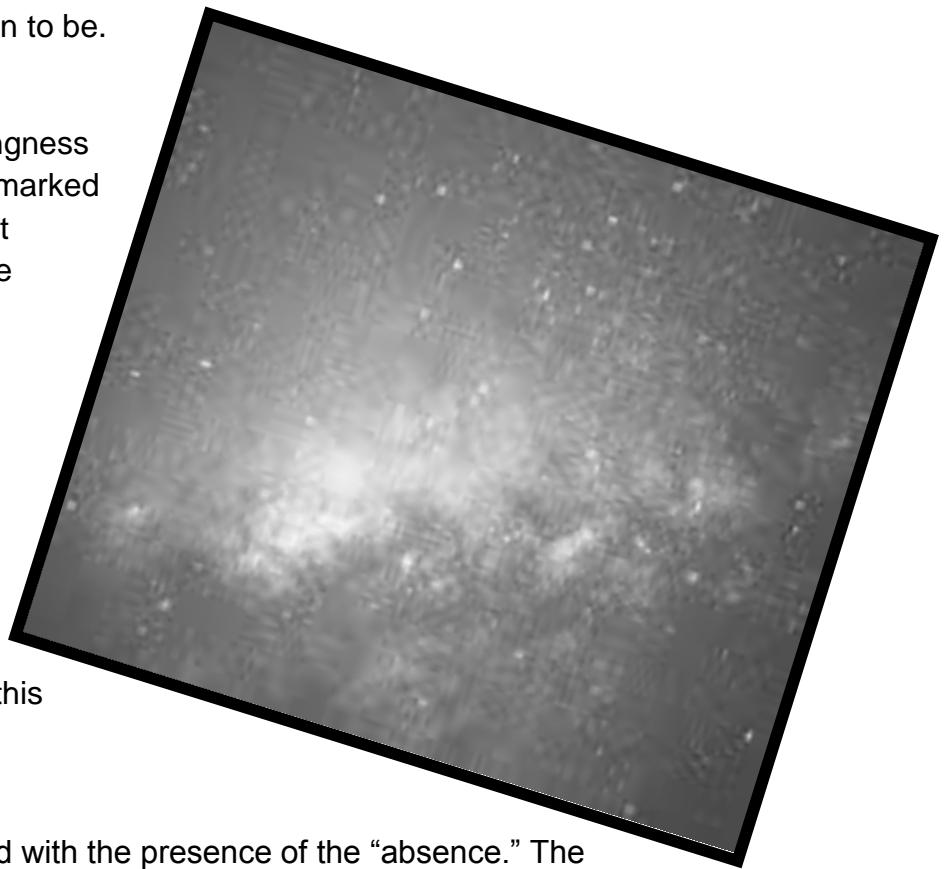


World 1 Obsessio:

Separation & the Cosmos – The Alien

As we stand before the sheer vastness of the cosmos, there emerges the sense of being an alien. Separated from the whole we are weighed with a sense of alienation and abandonment. We are solitary figures in the face of an over-whelming and silent cosmos. Life is a fundamental mystery: everything that is, could just as well not have been, or have been radically different. We are nameless, directionless, homeless with “reality” simply the name for the incidental point where we happen to be.

Haunted that there is only nothingness without a God behind it, we are marked by a yearning to be united to that Ground from which our existence comes, from which we are estranged. To exist is to be separated from the Ground of Being. Life is marked by the search for that to which we belong. We are pilgrims/orphans, looking for home. The issue is in which direction – back to the - - womb, or toward a home not of this order?



Citizens of World 1 are obsessed with the presence of the “absence.” The obsessio is a yearning for the “other.” As Paul Tillich stated, “We know that we are estranged from something to which we really belong, and with which we should be united.” Abandoned implies by *someone*. Absence implies *presence somewhere*.

World 1 Obsessio: mystery waiting to be recognized and trusted.

World 1 Sin: mistrust, faithlessness

World 1 Gospel Truth: the eyes of our hearts indeed need opening.

World 1 Epiphania: Reunion as Homecoming

Epiphania comes as the ability to see the “reality beyond reality”: the invisible beyond the visible, the spiritual beyond the material. Such seeing is always partial and comes as quick glimpses or special moments which hint of “other.” Such moments are rifts in the curtains, or holes in seeing that

the mystery. It is through this kind of things become new. Such moments provide a foretaste which bathes the infinitely meaningless with the unfathomably awe-filled.

By consciously recognizing such “seeing” we participate in the present moment. Such glimpsing often has the effect of merging the present and the future into an Eternal Now.

Those who experience such epiphanias often experience what Thomas Merton called the “Spontaneous awe of the sacredness of life.”



Elizabeth Barrett Browning speaks of such perception in her poem *Aurora Leigh*:
“Earth’s crammed with heaven / And every common bush afire with God / But only he,
who sees, takes off his shoes / The rest of us sit around it, and pluck blackberries.”

World 1 Epiphania: new awareness/“seeing”

World 1 Christology: Christ is the revealer who lifts the veil/opens the eyes

World 1 Gospel Celebration: sacred moments are rifts/holes through which we glimpse eternity.

World 1 Quest:
Expanding the Soul to Tear the Veil -
To Know the Truth



“All births mean separation from the All, the confinement within limitation, the separation from God, the pangs of being born anew. The return in the All, the dissolution of painful individuation, the reunion with God means expansion of the soul until it is able once again to embrace the All” (Herman Hess, *Steppenwolf*).

Tearing the veil opens up a different dimension of reality. Through this experience we gain a perspective for contrasting views of the All/God. Also, in this experience we begin to understand that our search for God takes place within God’s search for us.

By graciously experiencing the mystery of “why something rather than nothing,” each moment of existence becomes a sheer gift: the Now is graced. Salvation for citizens of World 1 is a new way of seeing, a change in perspective, an “aha!” moment which ushers in the Eternal Now.



The quest is pursued through exploring, wandering, experimenting, studying, trying new things/ideas/god-concepts.



World 1 Scripture: all words of the bible point to the Word behind creation

World 1 God: not a Being per se, but imaged as woven into the fabric of creation

World 1 Salvation: a new way of seeing, a change in perspective
World 1 Movement: from Orphan to Gnostic